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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Middle East, issued on 3 July 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

06-42743 (E) 140706

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the Middle East by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is extremely concerned about the situation that has evolved over recent days between Israel and the Palestinians and calls on all parties to abstain from any actions that are in violation of international law. It calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. The European Union strongly condemns the murder of the Israeli victim of a kidnapping in the West Bank. It calls on the Palestinian leadership to bring an end to violence and terrorist activities, including the firing of rockets on Israeli territory.

The European Union expresses its particular concern about the detention of elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature. Those detained should be accorded their full legal rights.

The European Union reminds all parties of their responsibility to protect civilian lives. Notwithstanding the legitimate right of self-defence of Israel, ongoing military operations should be in accordance with international law. It calls on Israel to exercise the utmost restraint and to avoid disproportionate action. It regrets the destruction of essential infrastructure, which contributes to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Restoring electricity and water supplies and access for humanitarian organizations must be a priority now so that a humanitarian crisis can be prevented.

The European Union emphasizes the primacy of diplomatic means and calls upon all parties in the region to make every effort possible to resolve the current situation by peaceful means.

The European Union reaffirms its conviction that only a negotiated two-State solution can bring peace and security to the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples. A return to the peace process and to the implementation of the road map is therefore imperative. The European Union asks that both parties meet their responsibilities and demonstrate urgently an active commitment to the search for a negotiated solution.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with the present statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Letter dated 11 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the texts of the decision and the statement of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with killings of Russian citizens in Iraq (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

06-42713 (E) 130706 130706

Annex to the letter dated 11 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

A. Decision on the statement of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the killings of Russian citizens in Iraq

28 June 2006

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the killings of Russian citizens in Iraq;

2. To transmit this decision and the statement referred to above to the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. V. Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation, the United Nations, the Council of Representatives of Iraq, the parliaments of the States making up the multinational force in Iraq, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

3. To transmit this decision and the statement referred to above to the Parliamentary Gazette, for official publication;

4. That this decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

B. Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Statement of the State Duma in connection with killings of Russian citizens in Iraq

28 June 2006

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, joining the entire country in its grief, expresses its profound outrage at the savage killing of members of the staff of the embassy of the Russian Federation in Iraq, and severely condemns the criminals who committed that inhuman act, which lacks any possible political or moral justification.

The deputies of the State Duma believe that the tragedy that has unfolded in Iraq in recent days has been made possible in large part by a state of crisis in the country that has escalated as the occupying powers have increasingly lost control of the situation and terror and violence have become a daily reality for post-war Iraq. Unfortunately, the alarming and realistic assessments made by the Russian side are proving accurate. Such assessments include those contained in the 7 April 2004 statement of the Council of the State Duma and Council of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly regarding the situation in Iraq, which indicated that events

there were progressing inexorably according to the worst-case scenario, with military action by the occupying forces not only failing to restore order, but worsening the escalation of violence. The occupying powers continue to carry full responsibility for the situation in Iraq, including maintaining the security of its citizens and foreign specialists. We are firmly convinced that they could have prevented the tragedy which occurred.

The deputies of the State Duma take the view that the Russian position on Iraq and its friendly people during the crisis in that country, a position repeatedly stated by the President, Federal Assembly and Government of the Russian Federation, was the correct position, and the only one possible in the circumstances. The Russian Federation will not allow itself to be drawn into the Iraq conflict by any form of provocation, and will continue to press consistently for a peaceful settlement there, first and foremost by the efforts of the Iraqi people and all responsible representatives of Iraqi society.

The deputies of the State Duma insist that there should be an urgent and comprehensive examination of all the circumstances of the tragedy which befell Russian citizens in Iraq and an analysis of measures to ensure security for the staff of foreign representative offices of the Russian Federation, especially in areas where there is a continued danger of terrorist acts and where military activity is being conducted, so that new tragedies are not allowed to occur.

The deputies of the State Duma demand that the Iraqi authorities and occupying powers, whose responsibilities are established by Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), investigate meticulously and thoroughly the killing of Russian citizens in Iraq, and insist that all possible steps should be taken to apprehend and punish the criminals.

The deputies of the State Duma firmly believe that the killing of Russian citizens in Iraq is further proof that there can be no double standards or attempts at appeasement when dealing with terrorists. The terrorists and extremists active in Iraq today must be under no illusion of impunity for such inhuman crimes. There is an urgent need for a unified legal, political and moral front which refuses to accept any form of terrorism or violence and which sees retribution for terror and for crimes against the life and health of individuals as inevitable.